

Application No.: 10/500,367

Docket No.: 22106-00062-US1

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for joining components of thermostatic systems and thermal relays for low-voltage circuit breakers, said components being constituted by at least one bimetallic element constituted by a lamina with a first face and a second face and at least one connection element that has a substantially flat end part with a third face and a fourth face, ~~characterized in that it comprises the steps that consist in~~ wherein the method comprises:
  - overlapping and coupling the end part of the first face of said bimetallic element with respect to the third face of the end part of said connection element; and
  - subjecting the end part of the second face of said bimetallic element to the welding action of laser means to provide a weld between said bimetallic element and said connection element.
2. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of thermostatic systems and thermal relays for low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said laser means scan the second face of said bimetallic element along a predefined path.
3. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of thermostatic systems and thermal relays for low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said predefined path follows a curved profile.
4. (Canceled)

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5. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said laser means are constituted by a solid-state laser.
6. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one connection element is ~~constituted by the~~ comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
7. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one connection element is ~~constituted by~~ comprises a connecting braid.
8. (Previously presented) Components of low-voltage circuit breakers obtained with a method according to claim 1.
9. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A low-voltage circuit breaker, comprising one or more components according to claim 8.
10. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said laser means are constituted by a solid-state laser.
11. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said laser means are constituted by a solid-state laser.
12. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said laser means are constituted by a solid-state laser.

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13. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ at least one connection is ~~constituted by the~~ comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
14. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ at least one connection element is ~~constituted by the~~ comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
15. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ at least one connection element is ~~constituted by the~~ comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
16. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ at least one connection element is ~~constituted by the~~ comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
17. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ at least one connection element is ~~constituted by~~ comprises a connecting braid.
18. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ at least one connection element is ~~constituted by~~ comprises a connecting braid.
19. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ least one connection element is ~~constituted by~~ comprises a connecting braid.
20. (Currently amended) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one connection element is constituted by a connecting braid.